

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE PUBLIC FEELING ABOUT THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

From the N. Y. Times.

There were somewhere between 150 and 200 people present in the great hall of the Cooper Institute on Monday night to hear the lecture on "England and the Alabama" (i. e., the Alabama claims) by Mr. Justin McCarthy, editor of the London Star.

It seems rather remarkable that there should only have been sent a mere shadow of an audience to listen to the views of an able Englishman on this great question.

Certainly the lecturer was a man well worth listening to on any subject; and one might have thought that on this subject especially the public would be eager to hear him.

And yet, to such a small degree was public interest aroused, that there was only collected a little knot of people in the great hall which, one might have supposed, would be densely crowded.

The night, too, was auspicious. The heavens were clear, the air was mild and gentle, the streets were dry.

Now, was it because people did not care enough about the Alabama question that they could not be attracted by all these attractions, and all these favorable circumstances, to hear about it?

One would hardly be led to think so by reading the newspapers. They work it up every day, in long metre and short.

They are constantly in the most terrible state of excitement about it. They threaten war and vengeance over it. They would raise millions of men and expend billions of money for it.

What is the "old pledge" which has been broken?—what the "new rule" which must be adopted?—"Recognize the claims of private soldiers for the highest honors in the gift of the Republic."

We fear it must be confessed, after all, that the greater part of the excitement and wrath over England and the Alabama is in the excitable newspapers. The froth which they work up is on the surface, and does not agitate the deep sea of American feeling.

THE NEGRO ELECTION RIOTS IN WASHINGTON.

From the N. Y. World.

The negro-suffrage experiment is beginning to bring forth its natural fruits in scenes of riot and bloodshed. That disturbances similar to those in Washington have not yet taken place throughout the Southern States, is doubtless owing to the fact that all the elections yet held in those States under the negro-suffrage regime have been under the over-riding and repressive superintendence of the Federal army.

There is no pretense, in any quarter, that the Washington election riots were provoked by aggressions or insults offered to the negroes by white men.

due to the lawful exercise of authority as members of the police. White men may have instigated these riots; but, if so, they did it as friends and fellow-partisans of the negroes, setting them on in the interest of the Republican party.

The system of terrorism and coercion which has been begun in Washington will probably be extended through the Southern cities. The suffrage was conferred on the negroes from sheer partisan motives; the object was not to protect them, but to benefit the Republican party.

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THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN PENNSYLVANIA.

From the N. Y. Times.

"The Republican party has no more chance," declares the Harrisburg State Guard in view of the next Pennsylvania election. Now, the State Guard is a Republican journal of unquestioned orthodoxy; the name of Governor Geary is inscribed on its banner for reelection; and it is zealous, in season and out of season, in its endeavors to promote the party's prosperity.

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have systematically neglected the soldiers, we have not the means of determining. If, however, the warning of the State Guard is proper enough, it is, otherwise, the attempt to separate soldiers from citizens, and to make the name of the one superior to the merits of the other, indicates a local desperation.

It is a saying, however, which other Pennsylvania oracles interpret differently. The Washington correspondent of the Evening Post reports:—

"Leading radical politicians in Pennsylvania write here that unless our differences with England are made a party issue, the contest will be close between the two parties."

If this view be acquiesced in, soldiers may be at a premium in another capacity than as candidates for office. But what estimate shall be placed upon the party management which has reduced Republicanism in Pennsylvania to the strait indicated by these demands?

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS AS A PARTY QUESTION.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The active managers of the Republican party, it is said, have resolved upon the agitation of the Alabama claims on the ultimate platform suggested in Senator Sumner's speech as the leading issue in the approaching fall elections. All the old issues of the last eight years having been settled or used up, it is contended that unless the Republicans can bring forward some new proposition appealing powerfully to the popular sentiment of the country, the party will fall to pieces.

In 1824, the Federalists being merged with the Republicans, a new organization of parties was initiated in the Presidential struggle of that year between Jackson, Adams, Crawford, and Clay. This election was thrown into the House, where it resulted in the choice of Adams, as was charged, by "a bargain and sale" between Adams and Clay.

But in 1844, on the cry of "Texas and Oregon—fifty-four forty or fight," (a war with England)—the Democratic party came in again; and in 1848 they were again beaten, this time by General Taylor, not only as the hero of Buena Vista, but as a hero of the war of 1812 against England.

From the outbreak of our Southern Rebellion down to this day, it has been the good fortune of the Republicans to stand as the Union war party against the South, against the Northern Democratic party, and against England. The Republicans thus hold the inside track on these Alabama claims, and in agitating the settlement involved in Senator Sumner's exposition they have nothing to lose, but everything to gain.

OF DISJOINTED THINKING AND THINKERS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Dr. James Rush, who died the other day in Philadelphia, left (as we have already noticed) a large sum for the foundation of a library, at the same time recommending to the managers that they should not give much space on the shelves "to those teachers of disjointed thinking, the newspapers."

Another version of the story of contemplated war upon the North by Spain has come to us from a not distinguished source in Madrid. It is told us that Isabella, under teaching of the French interest at that capital, was about to order her fleet in Cuba to open fire upon any of our vessels which took prizes within six miles of her boundaries.

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times, a wholesome restraining influence upon society; but the mass of men, especially in a republic, must expect to make many mistakes, and must be always ready to profit by them.

PISTOLS FOR TWO.

From the N. Y. World.

At the trial the other day of a "breach of promise" suit in Chicago, the defendant appeared in court "with the butt-end of a revolver sticking out of his vest pocket."

Of course, the promulgation of this short and simple code may very well have weakened the hold of the ancient law upon the female mind. No doubt, when the defendant with the revolver went into court in Chicago, he went thither penetrated with a profound uncertainty as to whether he should ever get out of the court again alive.

It is quite probable, therefore, that the Chicago court, taking all these things into consideration, may have winked at the defendant's revolver. If this be so, we think the Chicago court deserves commendation rather than censure.

SECRET HISTORY.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Queen Isabella, during the early part of our late war, was tempted to recognize the nationality of the South, but was prevented by fear that if once established the South would take pains to annex Cuba.

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